



2023 has been a year of growth and transition for EBAS. We have seen changes brought in by new leadership and board members, exciting new fundraising events, and improvements to our facilities. While all of this may have been challenging for some organizations, we have been able to embrace and make the most of changing tides. The strength of EBAS has come from the foundation laid by its Board of Directors. Many who serve on our board have been with us over 10 years, several closer to twenty, a few even more. Their charity, compassion, hard work, and dedication have made the shelter as strong and relevant as it is today.

However, sometimes good things come to an end. At the end of 2023, we have several of our wonderful board members stepping away into the next chapter of their lives. Although we will miss them terribly, the influence they have had on EBAS is everlasting. We will use the wisdom, humility, humor, and guidance they have given us over many years to continue on with our mission and purpose. We could go on forever about the wonderful contributions each of them has made, but it's better to hear in their own words.

Ladies, it has been our honor serving with you, and we wish each of you all the best. Thank you doesn't begin to cover it, but on behalf of the entire board, thank you from the bottom of our hearts 😊

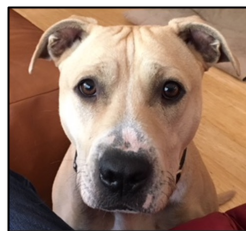
Samantha Hedberg & Linda Moon
EBAS Co-Presidents



Judi Behrens

After ten years of having the privilege of being on the board of Eva Burrell Animal Shelter, I will be resigning my board position at the end of this year. Not an easy decision. This wonderful shelter has been a BIG part of my life since my husband and I retired here to Manistique. I always wanted to volunteer my time to organizations that I felt passionate about. But when I was working, my career demanded at least 10-hour workdays and sometimes weekends, leaving no time left for volunteering. When we retired, I was looking forward to filling my free time with volunteer work. And I love, love, love animals, so what better way to spend my time than at the local shelter. So, after we settled in here, I visited Eva Burrell Animal Shelter, filled out a volunteer application and my EBAS journey began. And also my husband Bruce's, once he saw how much fun I was having and how much he could contribute, too.

I'm more of a dog person (nothing against cats, cat cuddles are great), so I started out as a dog walker. I soon discovered there's no better way to spend a spring, summer, fall, or even winter afternoon in the U.P. than walking a dog through the quiet woods. Oh, I've had so many memorable experiences volunteering at the shelter and on the board. I've cherished my shelter experience and I'm thankful for all I've learned about sheltering, about dogs (Patricia: "Judi, keep your face away from the new dog's mouth!) and cats (some really don't like to go in crates), and about our community. I learned that each animal we care for is an individual, with its own quirks and needs regardless of the breed. I've felt the joy of seeing dogs and cats who were given up on by others morph into gentle, loving pets under our care. And had my heart broken when some couldn't be rehabilitated no matter how hard we tried. I've been proud to be a part of EBAS every time I've watched Patricia deal with a scared animal or not-so-patient person, always putting the needs of the animal and our community first. And honored to be part of such a hardworking and dedicated board. If you have a chance, I urge you to dedicate some time to a cause you love; you absolutely won't regret it. I don't regret a minute of my life with EBAS, and I got the best dog in the world out of the deal, my Buddy boy!





Kathe Nedeau:

Animals have been and will always be my passion, and I have cherished my time at EBAS! After 13+ years, I will be departing as a board member/volunteer. I've had many opportunities to foster dogs and cats (being a *foster failure* a few times). My most memorable foster was a momma cat and her 3-day-old kittens. It was so rewarding watching how momma took care of her babies and seeing them grow. I was such a proud foster mom when the kittens started using the litter box on their own! ;-) I was often able to transport dogs and cats to or from different shelters, and I was proud being part of, and chairing, many events to raise money for the shelter. As a board member I was instrumental in making important decisions for the shelter and I have many memories to take with me. So many good, rewarding memories! I will leave the shelter at the end of the year with a heavy heart, but I will be leaving with the utmost respect for our board, shelter manager, staff and volunteers. I am confident that our current and new board members will continue to work hard for EBAS!



Ursula VanMeter

Finding purpose in retirement was my motivation when I applied to volunteer at EBAS. After I met with the then-president of the board, I decided walking dogs was what I really wanted to do at the shelter. It would keep me active and outdoors, which is what I really like. After a couple years of doing this, other needs at the shelter became apparent, and I ended up joining the Board and helping with the treasurer duties and with fundraising. I also continued walking dogs and learning from staff and other volunteers. Our job was to teach the dogs the right behavior, such as walking nicely on leash, sitting before a door is opened, staying, learning not to bark, and much more. I also ended up learning from the dogs. They had often been neglected, and just spending time with someone was their idea of heaven. Dogs offer unconditional love, they encourage us to be playful, they are loyal, they never judge, they don't hold grudges and they live in the moment. That despite the tough circumstances many of them came from, they all just wanted the same thing, to be treated with love and kindness. Some dogs from especially appalling circumstances had to learn to trust the humans at the shelter to take care of them with kindness, something they may never have experienced. This was often a long process and often quite a challenge. The best reward for me was when a dog overcame his/her fears and anxieties and was able to be placed in a loving home. To be able to say to a dog that I've worked with, "Happy life, Buddy! I'll miss you" is the ultimate reward. I will always treasure the time I spent at the shelter with the dogs and the staff and other volunteers. I became a part of the shelter community, I learned new skills, shared my own skills and spent time with some awesome dogs and people.